

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a better picture of important matters affecting labor, according to the industrial, legal, labor and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the labor movement.

WHOLE NO. 859.

## UNEMPLOYMENT MORE COSTLY THAN STRIKES

The market is flooded with books on the industrial question.

This indicates a growing interest by the public, as well as the increase of those who would solve the tangled dispute between wage workers and the owners of capital, who are referred to as "capital and labor."

These authors include the rocking chair type. One of this genre, in discussing strike losses, says:

"The amount of industrial friction resulting from the present methods of wage adjustment has increased when the market is flooded with books on the industrial question. To give a single instance, the Bureau of Labor Statistics cost a loss of wages for 15,000 workers for the total of 100,000,000, while the loss of profits to the mine operators was probably the same amount."

The author has no solution, but he stoutly—and safely—demands that "something should be done."

His awesome figures are based on the supposition that when no strike exists in the anthracite fields, coal miners work six days a week, 52 weeks a year.

It would be nearer the mark to say that miners are always idle 165 days a year through an overdeveloped industry, lack of markets for coal, lack of cars, and other causes over which they have no control. At the present time anthracite miners have a contract with coal owners, but unemployment is widespread in the hard-coal sections of Pennsylvania. This is undisputed by industrial "experts" who write books.

In the soft-coal districts, coal miners generally have not for much time annually, they have lost since April 1, this year, when their present strike started.

These temporary shutdowns and group lay-offs are never referred to, though the United Mine Workers of America constantly call attention to the wretched condition of this industry.

When miners resist a wage reduction and are compelled to strike, the "experts" call attention to the "loss of wages," though this loss is the inevitable rule if no strike exists.

What is true of mining is true of practically every other industry. No basic industry operates 100 per cent during the year.

The Wall Street Journal says this acknowledgment in its September 1, 1925, issue:

"PRODUCTION IS KEPT WITHIN BOUNDS OF CONSUMPTION there is no dividend and no wage cuts, and even today they are out more steel, more coal, more copper, more oil, more rubber, more everything than they can use."

"IF ALL THESE INDUSTRIES PERMITTED CREDIT BY LEASE, PROSPERITY WOULD BE SHORT LIVED."

It will be noticed that this financial authority recommends employers state lockouts, but that the unemployed miners, that greater evils may not result. The Wall Street Journal thus acknowledges that no basic industry dare operate full time. This was two years ago, when unemployment was considered at its after-the-war peak, and at the same time that the anthracite miners' strike, referred to above, was on.

## NEW IDEAS ADVANCE SLOWLY

Trade unionists should not be discouraged when non-unionists do not immediately accept their viewpoints.

Business men are not immune from this clinging to the old.

The public is led to believe that industrial captains are constantly on the alert for new ideas, but this is denied by Charles F. Kettering, vice president of the General Motors Corp.

Speaking at a convention of scientists in Detroit, Mr. Kettering said that "selling an idea" to business men is one of the most difficult problems of research.

He said that he had organized departments for the procurement of new ideas, but that he had no procurement department for a new idea until you are prepared to offer it to the customer as a commodity.

"Bankers regard research as most dangerous and a thing that makes bankers hazardous due to the rapid changes it brings about."

## Government By Law Is Destroyed When Labor Injunction Operates

Detroit, Sept. 24.—Courts change government by law to government by injunction, said Circuit Court Judge Hunt in refusing the request of several meat dealers to restrain city authorities from enforcing a Sunday-closing ordinance.

Judge Hunt's views are identical to organized labor's opposition to the new use of the injunction writ.

"The courts have gone far enough," said Judge Hunt. "They are making a government by injunction. Applications for injunctions in the Circuit Court, if granted, would tie up the work of the Recorder's Court."

"The injunction should be an instrument of extraordinary emergency, not a wholesale remedy for all sorts of grievances, particularly preliminary to the trial of a case."

"Granting injunctions before criminal cases come to trial is putting the cart before the horse."

IRISH NATIONAL VOTE NO PHILANTHROPY IN CHEAP HOME WORK

Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 24.—Employers no longer claim that they were done wrong by the cause of philanthropy, says the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry in a survey of industrial home work.

In spite of the fact that in the past much stress has been laid on the philanthropic motives of employers in paying out home work, very little is being said in the department's reports. "Only five per cent of the employers reported that they were motivated by philanthropy."

One election surprise is the defeat of Thomas Johnson, head of the Labor Party and fraternal delegate from the American Federation of Labor, two years ago. Johnson stood for election in this city. He is considered the most able among Congress opponents and the opposition center their forces against him.

Unfavorable economic conditions are a factor in the present political upsurge in the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. The United Laborer Workers' organization in this industry, but the motive force of the industry is to prefer to wage an independent strike.

PER CAPITA TAX RAISED

Phila., Sept. 24.—An outpouring of letters from the city of Philadelphia is on strike. They are addressed to the city of Philadelphia, Pa., and are signed by the United Laborer Workers' organization in this industry, but the motive force of the industry is to prefer to wage an independent strike.

LOSS OF TRADE HURTS: "YELLOW DOG" SQUEALS

Boston, Sept. 24.—The Game-well Company of Newton Upper Falls, near here, manufacturers of game-well equipment, is in a predicament. The company is in a predicament. The company is in a predicament.

WOMEN ARE BARBERS

Lansing, Mich., Sept. 24.—Women barbers are being organized in Lansing, Mich. The women barbers are being organized in Lansing, Mich.

EMPLOYERS MUST OPEN BOOKS TO PROVE CONTRACT PLEDGE

New York, Sept. 24.—A few years ago it would be unthinkable that employers would open their books to prove they are not violating a labor contract. But this is happening in the cloak and suit industry.

Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union accuse employers of sending work to non-union contractors, and Raymond V. Imperial, impartial arbitrator, has ordered the employers who are under contract to open their books to the union.

First demand to supplying non-union contractors with work will have to immediately discontinue this practice. The non-union contractors accept the union agreement.

This violation of contract is not general. The more substantial employers acknowledge the contract. Standards are necessary to rescue the

## MINER PAID LOW WAGE; RISKS LIFE AND LIMB

Chicago, Sept. 24.—In a speech broadcast by Station WFL, owned by the Chicago Federation of Labor, J. J. Lewis, chief counsel for Illinois miners, said that the miners' basic wage is less than other skilled crafts.

"The miners' basic wage of \$7.50 per day is not unreasonable," he said. "It is less than what is paid the carpenter, the bricklayer, the plasterer and a dozen other crafts."

And yet the miner risks his life and limb in the dark, except for the light he carries on his cap. His is a hazardous occupation.

The miner's work is hard and performed in darkness, except for the light he carries on his cap. His is a hazardous occupation.

He is in constant danger of speeding motors, falling rock and exploding gas. There were 165 fatal accidents and 1,019 non-fatal accidents in Illinois mines last year. Where else do you find such a heavy casualty

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## Failure of U. S. Merchant Marine Caused By "Loyal" Business Men

Washington, Sept. 24.—High Government officials express the belief that American shipping would use American ships, rather than vessels flying foreign flags.

From one source it is stated that "the indifference not only of American shippers, but also of American railroads, to the use of the American bottoms, is one of the drawbacks for an American merchant marine."

This situation should interest trade unionists and other citizens who have been told that the seamen's act is responsible for America's failure to build a merchant marine.

One of the leaders in this untruthful propaganda is Robert Dollar, a West Coast anti-union vessel owner and one of the largest employers of Chinese labor. In discussing the deplorable condition of the American flag, he said:

"In 1900 the proportion was 9.3 per cent—practically nothing. The Seamen's Act was the principal factor in producing this last result."

Captain Dollar ignores the records in his desire to build up a case against the Seamen's Act. The Seamen's Act was not passed until March 4, 1915, and did not take effect, as to vessels in the United States, until eight months thereafter, or until December 4, 1915.

But despite the record, Captain Dollar's propaganda is being used for strangling the merchant marine, during the present war.

The charge that American railroads did not patronize American ships recalls a sensational address made seven years ago by Senator Randall of Louisiana in which he showed how American railroads are linked up with the foreign shipping companies.

"Practically all of the east and west trunk lines pledged to patronize foreign vessels, and to grant special facilities for the transportation of cargo, wharfage and other expenses."

LABOR'S SHARE OF PRODUCTION SHOWN BY INDEX, FIRST TIME

Washington, Sept. 24.—Supplementing the trade union demand for a fair share of wealth created by industry, the American Federation of Labor from month to month, labor's share in economic progress.

"The index which will appear in the October issue of the A. F. of L. Bulletin, indicates the share of labor in the factory, or how much of the income that manufacturing industry has from the sale of its products is paid to labor in the form of wages."

"The first index," said William C. Sullivan, American Federation of Labor, "shows that labor's share in the factory, labor's share in the income of industry, was higher in 1907 than in 1926. But the average in the first six months of 1927 is the level of 1907."

"However, the wage earner does not buy all products from the producer who he receives his wages. He does not buy machines. He does not buy the materials and commodities which he produces and buys there is a difference in the factory and on the market. The prices of these commodities change while they are on the market, through the channels of trade to the market. Therefore, we have no index of the value of labor's share in the products on the market."

8-HOUR DAY IS RIGHT, SAYS STEEL SPOKESMAN

Cleveland, Sept. 24.—The Iron Trade Review acknowledges that the late Judge Gary and other opponents of the eight-hour day have been defeated.

This non-union spokesman for the steel industry says "it is certain that the increased efficiency of the employees and the increased contentment in the ranks of steel organizations have resulted in economies in operation."

In reference to the eight-hour day and the fight waged by Judge Gary and his associates for three months ago, the spokesman says: "Neither of them is to be credited with the victory."

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## BANKERS' LOANS TO EUROPE INVOLVED IN TARIFF MIX UP

Washington, Sept. 24.—Private loans by American bankers are indirectly involved in the tariff controversy between this country and France.

In fact, the dispute is over maximum tariff rates that France has placed on American exports. France and Germany have a new trade agreement in which the former secures valuable concessions and returns to the latter a guaranteed minimum tariff rates.

American business men are protesting against this discrimination and talk of sweeping the French out of the market. Congress is heard. Under the Fordney-McCumber tariff act, Congress can raise tariff duties 50 per cent against France. This club has never been used, but it is here to be used.

The author has no solution, but he stoutly—and safely—demands that "something should be done."

His awesome figures are based on the supposition that when no strike exists in the anthracite fields, coal miners work six days a week, 52 weeks a year.

WORKERS WON'T STRIKE WITH FALSE FRIENDS

London, England, Sept. 24.—Organized labor is facing two flank attacks. One is issued by the French government. The other is issued by the British government.

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The voice of the majority is no proof of justice.—Schiller.

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## EMPLOYERS' PENSIONS ARE ON SHAKY BASIS

Washington, Sept. 24.—Continued warnings are heard against employers' pension systems. These plans are only operated in non-union plants.

The "durability and soundness of these pension plans is beyond doubt," says H. B. Butler, deputy director of the International Labor Office.

The Harvard Law School dealt this system is a report by the Pennsylvania Commission on Old Age Pensions.

"As pension obligations are now carried," the report says, "these obligations are not being paid."

concluding that unless our present business prosperity continues indefinitely without a setback, the pension obligations will be forced in the long run to assume the maintenance of many thousands of workers

to expect that they would be granted pensions in their old age.

"Many of the heads of the big industrial corporations who were among the first to adopt pension provisions of their own are now among the most outspoken critics of current pension methods."

TARIFF ACT ASSAILED: FOREIGNERS WON'T HELP

Washington, Sept. 24.—The "flexible" provisions of the tariff law are being assailed by foreigners who claim that it is too flexible and that it should be replaced.

The provision is a part of the Fordney-McCumber bill, passed during the war, which provided that the tariff is too high, the Tariff Commission shall investigate the cost of production in foreign countries and then report to the tariff commission.

The latter may lower rates, and the tariff commission may be asked to raise them. The latter may lower rates, and the tariff commission may be asked to raise them.

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